New-York Daily Tribune.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE GEOLOGY OF PENNSYLVANIA: A GOVERNMENT SURVEY. By HENRY DARWIN ROGERS, State Geologist. 2 vols. 4to. pp. 586, 1045. Lippincott & Co.

Among the works of scientific interest recently published in the United States, none, perhaps, are more important than the Final Report of the Geology of Pennsylvania, published by Messrs. Lippincott & Co. of Philadelphia, but really printed in Scotland, and furnished to the State of Pennsylvania to the limited number of 1,000 copies. The copyright is vested in the author, Henry D. Rogers, Professor of Natural History in the University of Glasgow. It is accompanied by four sheets 38x29 inches each, which together make the geological map of the State upon a given scale which marks 20 miles in 3.84 inches. There are also two sheets of 36x29 inches, which represent the geology and topography of the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania upon a scale marking five miles in 2.74 inches. These maps, prepared by the assistants employed upon the survey, present, with great faithfulness and skill, the range and areas occupied by the different geological formations throughout the State; and in the region west of the Alleghanies, where the strata of the bituminous coal measures lie almost horizontally, the outcrop of each of the important coal beds is designated, so that its extent is readily perceived; and by familiarity with the sections attached to the maps and found in the Report, the position of any important bed at any locality—whether far below the beds of the rivers or capping the highest summits, may be approximately ascertained. These maps are beautiful specimens of finished execution as well as of minute accuracy, unequaled by any geological maps ever produced in the United States. "Intended," as stated by the author in his preface, "to represent with close and faithful minuteness of detail a country of excessive topographical and geological intricacy, it required its geographical features to be executed on copper, in the very best style of map engraving, and the geological ones to be done by the beautiful modern process of color-printing from stone." Beside the maps, there are extensive geological sections in great numbers in each volume, and small illustrative cuts, as well as many pictures, some of which were printed in colors by W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh. The frontispiece of the second volume is a beautiful picture of the great anthracite bed of the Baltimore Company's old mine at Wilkesbarre, cropping out in a vertical wall beneath the overhanging strata of yellow sandstone. In the same volume, p. 382, is a picture, unique of its kind, occupying the whole page, representing the interior of this mine, its black walls, of more than twenty feet in hight, dimly lighted by the candles of the miners, and the light of day entering through the distant mouth of the mine, where, in bright colors, contrasting with the general blackness of the picture, are seen the gay dresses of a party of visitors, and through the opening a bit of blue sky and a hill covered with verdure. The sections illustrating the arrangement of the beds of bituminous coal have been collected at a multitude of localities, some supplying one portion of the column, and others other portions. Many are repetitions of the same strata, slightly modified by change of locality, and all together serve to present a complete series, representing the whole thickness of the formation, as well as that of individual beds, as traced from one town and county to another. In this investigation the data were slowly collected in the field, fragments of sections in one place and in another, the field-work rarely offering a clue to the results which were afterward to be brought out by the fitting together of these fragments, as pieces of a dissected map are arranged before the plan is understood. Beds of limestone frequently met with in the piles of strata between the different coal beds were found to be more persistent and easily recognized, even when only a foot or two thick, than the parallel beds of sandstone, which attain a thickness of ten to fifty feet, or more. They consequently served as the best guides in tracing out the beds of coal, the limestone showing itself in a ravine or the steep side of a hill indicating the position of a coal bed found at another locality so many feet higher or lower in the pile. Upon the map, the outcrop of these limestones, as they come out to the surface in any direction and are succeeded in the same direction by lower strata, is indicated by a strong blue line, and thus it is the number of coal beds and their relative depths are perceived by reference to the vertical sections. Coal has been treated in minute detail in this work. The second volume is, in fact, almost wholly devoted to this subject, the first containing descriptions of the various older formations—those above the gneiss and metamorphic group, and constituting the paleozoic, or ancient fossiliferous strata of Pennsylvania. These descriptions are arranged in chapters, each of which is devoted to a prominent district, or localities in which the formation under consideration is prominent. Seven districts are thus described before reaching the eighth, or that of the anthracite coal basins, with which the second volume commences. To this division, constituting the eighth "Book," are appropriated 465 pages. The ninth book, containing 30 chapters upon the localities of bituminous coal, occupies 200 pages more. Then follow 30 pages upon the red sandstone formation, which belongs to a later epoch than the coal measures deposited long subsequently to the uplifting of the whole paleozoic series of which the coal formation constitutes the uppermost member. This group, lying along the eastern margin of the paleozoic rocks and reposing upon their upturned edges, Prof. Rogers calls the mesozoic red sandstone series, and considers its place among the formations to be between the triassic and the jurassic.

The mineral veins and iron ores of Pennsylvania, though the latter represent one of the most important interests of the State, do not receive attention proportional to that given to coal. Forty pages contain the chapters specially devoted to this subject, beside two-and-a-half pages at the close of the work upon the statistics of the iron trade, brought down to the end of the year 1856. We confess to some disappointment in the manner in which this branch is passed over: though it is true there are many tables in these 40 pages which present a great number of analyses of the ores; and to go further than this and discuss their metallurgical treatment may perhaps be properly regarded foreign to the scope of the work. Yet when the subject of coal is again taken up, it is not found out of place to give several pages of fine type to a discussion of the properties that affect its economical value, and especially adapt it for raising steam. Other pages are given to the history of its introduction as a fuel, and its statistics are brought down to the close of 1857.

Immediately following the few pages upon the iron ores is a treatise entitled, "Sketch of the Geology of the United States," of 35 pages, followed by another of 39 pages on the "Conditions of the Physical Geography attending the Production of the Paleozoic Strata of the United States," a considerable portion of which is an interesting discussion upon the origin and distribution of the coal. The object of the former essay is obviously to introduce and fix upon the paleozoic formations throughout the United States the nomenclature presented in the first volume and applied to them throughout the report, compelling every student of this work to accustom himself to the peculiarly poetic names. Considering the multitude of names and nomenclatures with which every department of natural history is burdened, it is a bold attempt to propose an entire new set of names; and however much a more perfect nomenclature is to be desired, it cannot fail to be regarded as a pill requiring the gilding and sugaring of the most finished essay to render it palatable. In the "Sketch of the Geology of the United States," the subject is thus introduced. "The names we have assigned to the fifteen main Paleozoic series, are terms significant of the different natural periods into which the day divides itself from earliest dawn to latest twilight, and which are metaphorically expressive of the relative dates of production of the several formations. These periods, applicable only to the American Paleozoic day, are the primal, auroral, matinal, levant, surgent, scalent, pre-meridian, meridian, post-meridian, cadent, vergent, ponent, vespertine, umbral, and seral—signifying the periods respectively of the dawn, daybreak, morning, sunrise, ascending-day, high-morning, forenoon, noon, afternoon, waning-day, descending-day, sunset, evening, dark and nightfall. A nomenclature based on time is for many reasons preferable to the inexpressive ones in vogue, which rest on local geographical names, or narrow and inconstant paleontological characters, and is certainly preferable to the geographical nomenclature of the European paleozoic formations, which devised for the deposits of a wholly different ancient basin, are inapplicable to the subdivisions of the American strata, with which there is no such strict equivalency or coördination as to warrant their having the same appellations." Though this arrangement may be more complete than that adopted for the same series of rocks in New-York, the same objections will be encountered in attempting to apply it in other States that rendered the New-York system inapplicable in Pennsylvania—the change which strata undergo in traversing long distances. This difficulty Prof. Rogers anticipates, and endeavors to provide against as far as practicable by fixing his names upon the corresponding groups as they appear to him in other States. An occasional reference to his geological map of the United States, which in this work is not met with, points to a future publication of this character designed still more decidedly to perpetuate these names.

The organic remains of the paleozoic strata, not including the coal plants, are finished in twenty pages; and in this small space are descriptions and figures of fossils of other parts of the United States where the same groups of rock occur. In comparison with the manner in which this department is treated in the Paleontological Reports of New-York, the comparative poverty of the Pennsylvania formations in fossils is plainly indicated. The Coal plants are described by Leo Lesquereux, esq., formerly of Switzerland, now of Columbus, Ohio, and the illustrations, beautifully executed, occupy 23 plates of the size of the page. To the original report of Lesquereux succeed instructive discussions by Prof. Rogers upon the laws of structure of disturbed zones of the earth's crust, of the forms into which the strata are thrown, as in their parallel arrangement they bend and fold together, maintaining the same relations to each other and to the general trend of the portion of the mountain system to which they belong, and especially to its chief igneous axes, where it possesses such. The grand scale upon which the rocks of the Appalachian system are displayed throughout the range of these mountains affords an opportunity such as is nowhere else met with for the study of these phenomena; and the principles developed by Prof. H. D. Rogers, and Prof. Wm. B. Rogers, who conducted the geological survey of Virginia, and for many years has been engaged with his brother in this particular study, have served, by their application to the geological formation of Great Britain and the countries upon the continent of Europe, to throw a clearer light upon the obscurities of their arrangement, and explain the complicated foldings witnessed in the structure of the Alps. Minor features of structure and theories of elevation are next discussed with similar ability; and then we find a most interesting treatise of 25 pages, with many clear and well-selected illustrations, upon the "orographic" structure visible in the Appalachians and other undulated mountain-chains." It is a study of the outlines of the surface resulting from erosion or denuding action applied to piles of strata, horizontal and inclined, and possessing different powers of resistance. When such piles are exposed to atmospheric action, to the influence of rains and frost, or to powerful currents of water, the softer more rapidly give way, and the harder project in bold outline, Thus the shelf of hard limestone at Niagara overhangs the easily worn away shales that underlie it; and upon the summits of the Alleghanies the bold cliffs of sandstone rise above the depressed and gently sloping surface underlaid by the shales. Throughout the range of these formations, there is consequently a harmony between the forms of surface outline and the nature of the rocks beneath. Each great formation impresses upon the scenery its peculiar mark in the shape of the hills which contain it, and this enables one familiar with the Appalachian topography to recognize it by the merest glance a long way off. Even the minor strata are detected in a similar manner, as when the number and position of the beds of coal are perceived by the terraces upon a hill side, each pointing to one of these easily-distinguished beds at its foot. This feature is, perhaps, better exemplified in the paleozoic series of the Appalachians than in any other part of the world, and was in Pennsylvania first especially recognized, and practically applied to the tracing out of its formations and the discovery of the beds hidden beneath the surface. The peculiar forms of the gaps through the ridges, so often repeated with little variation of outline, and again presenting forms varying with the character of the rocks, are explained by the same principles of erosion acting with unequal effect upon strata of different powers of resistance and variously arranged.

The description of the coal fields of Pennsylvania, accurate and complete as it is, would still be imperfect without an account of the other great coal fields of the United States and the British Provinces. To afford data for more correctly estimating the wealth of the State in this product, a brief description, prepared from recently published reports, is presented of the other coal districts, followed by tables of 282 analyses gathered from various sources. An essay succeeds upon the coal districts of Great Britain and Ireland, with the statistics of their production. Coal is then treated through many pages as to its composition, its varieties, and the conditions that affect its economical value. This part of the work is particularly important, and the subject is treated in full detail and with great ability. In no work can so valuable a treatise upon coal be found as in the 18 pages devoted to this department. The methods pursued in Pennsylvania of searching for, opening and mining coal are next described, with the aid of appropriate illustrations; then the history of its application as fuel, a comparison of the areas and probable workable quantities of coal in the American and European coal fields, and the work closes with the statistics of production. In the introduction of the report, the physical geography of the State, its natural divisions, its scenery, hydrography, river systems and climatology are discussed with the same thoroughness and ability which characterize the rest of the work.

The State has waited long for this report, and much dissatisfaction has been expressed that a great work, undertaken early in 1836, should have produced none but the most meager results nearly up to the year 1859. Causes of the repeated delays in the publication are stated in the historical sketch of the work in the preface. From this it is apparent that by bad management and misfortunes the public and the author have alike suffered. Those familiar with the whole history of the survey know that there were other causes also delaying the publication, and that the Pennsylvanians now feel, that though the final result is this admirable series of treatises, which does the highest credit to American science, they have paid dearly for it. They felt during the progress of the survey, in the appearance of the unsatisfactory annual reports, that the interests of the State were not consulted, and that the most useful information was neither presented as collected in the reports of the assistants, nor digested to furnish conclusions of importance to the material benefit of the State. As year after year passed away the mining details and statistics lost much of their value by their age; and in 1851, and again in 1855, there was little heart to make appropriations to revise and publish data deposited with the Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1847. There was also a feeling, shared by all those who had been engaged upon the survey as assistants, the justice of which is seen throughout the great report, that the only interest consulted in the work was the reputation of the chief himself. Upon the other State geological surveys, and upon the United States Coast Survey, the assistants enjoy the reputation derived from their own reports; but in the Pennsylvania survey their names are merely given in the preface of the report, and no mention is made of the special share each performed in the work, of the discoveries they made, and of the methods they invented and applied of tracing out, identifying and delineating the various mineral beds and formations. The author refers to the meager, and ephemeral annual reports for all this, and adds that to attempt a precise history of the labors of each, would, beside being somewhat invidious, lead him into too minute and tedious a narrative. This injustice is strongly protested against by the author of the "Iron Manufacturer's Guide," in the preface of this new work, which we shall presently proceed to notice. Referring to this report, and the parts performed by those who aided in its preparation, he states that "his own name has been erased from the map of Pennsylvania, which he alone constructed and compiled, from the thirteen great sections across the State, the very style of which he was obliged to invent, from all the vertical sections of the coal measures, which he was the first to propose and alone executed, from the hundreds of illustrations of the geology of the State which he redrew: . . . . . and, to add insult to injury, his name is attached *once*, and only *once*, and that in common with two other names, to the map of the Anthracite Coal Region, with which he had nothing whatever to do, never having seen it until it was published." It is a singular feature, common to these maps and to the report itself, the inscription of the copyright notice in the name of the surveyor employed to prepare them for the State.

* Orographic—appertaining to mountain chains.

THE IRON MANUFACTURER'S GUIDE TO THE FURNACES, FORGES, AND ROLLING MILLS OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH DISCUSSIONS OF IRON AS A CHEMICAL ELEMENT, AN AMERICAN ORE, AND A MANUFACTURED ARTICLE IN COMMERCE AND IN HISTORY. By J. P. LESLEY, Secretary of the American Iron Association. John Wiley. 8vo. pp. 770.

This work has been prepared by the author acting under authority of the American Iron Association. For several years past he has been engaged in collecting data—traveling over the iron-producing districts of the Northern and Middle States, and embodying the information in reports to the Association, some of which, on the varieties and distribution of the iron ores, and the statistics of the manufacture, have already been published. These, with much new matter, make up the present volume. As a geologist the author has acquired a deservedly high reputation. He joined the geological corps of Pennsylvania in 1839, and for several years after the corps was disbanded was engaged in the collection of additional data and preparation of the maps that illustrate the final report. In a late treatise of his, entitled "Coal and its Topography," the principles developed by the assistants on this survey, setting forth the close relationship discovered between the outlines of the surface and the geological formations beneath, were clearly enunciated, and examples were given (sketched by himself upon the blocks) of the styles of drawing applied by the assistants to illustrate the topography of the State, and peculiarities of its mineral beds. In this department Mr. Lesley has been an enthusiastic student, and the State Report owes, without question, a large share of its merits to his genius and the zeal with which he labored. In the work now under consideration, the illustrations and maps show his original style of work. Three of the latter are also specimens of the new photo-lithograph process employed by Rehn & Co. of Philadelphia; and, with the exception of the map of Smith recently published in the first volume of Palfrey's History of New-England, they are supposed to be the first fruits in behalf of topographical science of this new process. First prepared upon a very large scale, they are reduced in the photographing to the desired size for the work; and in doing this the finer lettering does not lose its distinctness, even when so reduced that a microscope is required to make the words legible. A great advantage is thus gained in maps designed to represent the topographical features of a country, as the lettering may be profusely introduced without obscuring the more important lines, and the ramifications of the rivers and hills may be represented upon the smallest scale with all the minuteness and correct proportions of shade given to them upon the largest-sized maps. Should the new process for obtaining photographs in colors, recently communicated by M. Niepce de St. Victor to the Academy of Sciences, (Paris), prove successful in practice, we may soon expect to be provided with the most perfect topographical and geological maps at exceedingly low cost. The maps in the work of Mr. Lesley are chiefly designed to show the position of the iron furnaces, forges and rolling mills in the several States, and are not properly geological maps, as they might have been made by the distribution of appropriate colors. But those of the Appalachian region present the topography of this mountain chain, especially through Virginia and North-Carolina, much more perfectly than it has ever before been delineated. Two other maps, in other styles, also remarkable for their novelty and neatness, complete the representations of the distribution of the iron works, and of the railroads and canals, on which they depend for facilities of transportation. In that of the anthracite furnaces of Pennsylvania the outcrop of the valuable bed of fossil ore, well known as the "Catawissa ore," and extensively worked for the Montour Iron Works, is traced in a red line zigzagging around the terminations of the mountain ridges, and ranging in several repetitions across the eastern portion of the State. In future maps it will be interesting to see the outcrop of this small but remarkably persistent and valuable bed of ore traced through Central New-York, where it supplies the furnaces of Oneida County, and thence along its range south of Lake Ontario, across Niagara River, and through the peninsula of Canada West; and again, in the other direction, through the upper part of Maryland and Central Virginia into Tennessee. It is described in the work, and in Pennsylvania the mines upon it supplied fourteen anthracite furnaces wholly, and eleven more in part.

Part I. of the "Iron Manufacturer's Guide" extends through 262 pages, and is made up of short descriptions of the various iron works and of their present condition. The anthracite blast furnaces are grouped by themselves, the charcoal blast furnaces the same, and so of the forges, bloomeries, and rolling mills. The statistics compiled from these data and other sources are presented, together with tables and remarks upon the manufacture and trade, by Charles E. Smith of Philadelphia, Treasurer of the Iron Association, and occupy 30 pages near the close of the work. These were originally published in the Bulletin of the Association in March, 1858. Part II. is made up of several "divisions," only two of which are treated in this volume. The subjects of these are: 1st, "Iron as a Chemical Element," and 2nd, "Iron as an Ore in the United States." The treatment of the former division occupies 70 pages, and of the latter 110 pages; and a good sized volume being thus made up, the headings only are given of the other divisions, treatment of which is deferred to a future publication. These are III., "Iron as an American Manufacture;" and IV., "Iron in American History." The third division is of that importance to the manufacturer, and the subject in the present text books is either so far behind the present state of the manufacture, or is treated with so little ability, that we trust the iron interest will not have long to wait for the new publication. The success that has been attained in the United States in perfecting blast furnaces and the processes conducted in them, as also in the other operations connected with the working of iron and steel, has never been fairly represented, and it is due to the American talent displayed in this department, that a full exposition should be made of what has been done here. The eminently American character of this book in all its representations, (setting aside some foreign theoretical discussions brought to bear upon the probable previous condition of some of its ores) is very promising in this respect, and leads us to look for a full account of American processes, with original illustrations of forms of furnaces, &c.

Under "Iron as a Chemical Element," the properties of the metal are presented, and the nature of its combinations with oxygen, carbon, phosphorus, sulphur, &c., and also of its various alloys with other metals. Karsten's standard work on iron, which has never been translated into English, is the chief source of the data in this division. "Iron as an Ore in the United States" proves the most prolific subject, bringing to light a vast fund of information respecting the varieties and distribution of the most important ores. The accounts are interwoven with frequent theoretical speculations as to the origin of the ores and of the rocks which contain them; and it must occasionally strike one that the views of the author, sometimes novel and backed but by few authorities, are presented in rather a bold and positive manner. Thus, speaking of the metamorphic action, which has given rise to the class of rocks recognized by the name metamorphic, he calls it "an unknown agency; it has been fashionable to say fire; it is coming into fashion to say water. In the neighborhood of trap dykes and other so-called fire rocks the change is usually seen in perfection. But chemical action is now known to be a sufficient cause for the grandest metamorphic phenomena." (What is the action of fire but chemical action?) "It is no longer proper to speak of marble as a plutonic or fire rock; it is a *primary* rock only in the sense of changed or crystalline. Serpentine was once called a fire rock, but now it is settled to be a chemical production under a warm sea. Good geologists look upon mountains of granite and sienite no longer as upbursts of molten matter from the interior of the planet, but as sedimentary rocks, hardened and crystallized by gentle heat and acid water, and even regard veins of quartz as infiltrations from above rather than ejections from beneath. The occurrence of the precious metals, copper, silver, lead, and even gold, is explained by many who are authorized to speak, as a precipitation in crevices from overlying waters, or as original deposits at the bottom of the ancient seas. The prejudice instilled by our familiarity with iron in a molten state has left it hitherto an exception to this rule. * * * * But such a prejudice cannot last. Evidence is accumulating year by year sufficient to remove all doubt of the common sedimentary origin of iron even under forms which once were universally accepted as volcanic." These views the author urges throughout the work, frequently citing interesting facts, such as the occasional occurrence of magnetic ores with the unquestioned sedimentary hematites in their support. He recognizes the distribution of the different kinds of iron ore in their appropriate geological formations, and divides these kinds into: 1. Primary specular, magnetic, and red oxide: 2. Brown hematites; 3. Th fossil ores of the Upper Silurian rocks; 4. The carbonates, especially of the coal measures; 5. The bog ores of the present surface. He gives a general description of the range throughout the United States of the several formations to which these ores belong, and then devotes several pages to the subject of meteoric iron. The primary ores are then taken up and described as they are found in their numerous localities. The enormous supplies of these ores distributed throughout the United States cannot fail to astonish the reader, and few will be prepared for the following paragraph, which presents a very different view of the real iron resources of Pennsylvania from those commonly held:

> Entering Pennsylvania, the magnetic ores of the primary, azoic, or Huronian system dwindle to a shadow. The reputation of this State for iron has resulted more from the energetic, persevering German use, for a century of years, of what ores do exist, than from any extraordinary wealth of iron of which she can boast; certainly, not from any actual preëminence of mineral wealth over her sister States. New-York, New-Jersey, Virginia and North-Carolina are far more liberally endowed by nature in this respect than she. The immense magnetic deposits of New-York and New-Jersey almost disappear just after entering her limits. The brown hematite beds of her great valley will not seem extraordinary to one who has become familiar with those of New-York, Massachusetts and Vermont, Virginia and Tennessee. Her fossil ore outcrop is not more extensive than lean and uncertain, compared with that of the South. And the carbonate and hematized carbonate outcrops in and under her coal measures will hardly bear comparison with those of the grander outspread of the same formations in Ohio, Kentucky and Western Virginia. But her people came from the land of the Stuckofen, the fatherland of mineralogy and metallurgy; and came a people of peaceful thrifty and industrious habits, to settle midway between the rigors of the North and the enervation of the South, to illustrate a free soil with the dignities and successes of free labor.

The iron reputation of Pennsylvania was acquired before the importance of her coal mines to the greater development of this interest was understood.

Among the various sources of information from which the author liberally draws, always giving full credit for the same wherever due, are several unpublished manuscripts supplied by others, and these occasionally furnish data of interest nowhere else to be found. Thus is obtained a sketch of the rich iron district of Upper Georgia, little known and little improved.

The great deposits of brown hematites, which have long supplied a large portion of the iron made in the United States, have been an obscure subject with geologists. Occurring with the metamorphic limestones and those of later formations, they yet seemed not to belong to the epochs of these; and the discovery by Prof. Hitchcock of fossil fruits among the materials of one of the beds at Brandon, Vt., led him to refer them to the tertiary period. The study of these beds over their extensive range from the New-England through the Middle States, enables Mr. Lesley to present the most complete geological treatise upon them; and he finds nothing to confirm the views expressed by Prof. Hitchcock. This whole division is highly instructive.

The red fossil ore of the upper silurian, the same as the Catawissa ore already referred to, and known in Kentucky and Tennessee as the Dyeston fossil ore, is next described in its various localities in New-York, New-Jersey, and further south, and also in Wisconsin. Chapters upon the carbonates of iron of the coal measures and upon the bog ores succeed—the last more fully noticed than in any other work.

THE VAGABOND. By ADAM BADEAU. 12mo., pp. [illegible]. Rudd & Carleton.

It is rarely that a series of papers written, like these, to meet the demands of popular journalism, possess sufficient general interest to warrant their preservation in a more permanent form. Nor is the attempt to portray the features of eminent living characters free from peril, however active the sense of justice and delicacy of perception which preside over the experiment. It is no small praise, accordingly, to the author of this volume that he has exceeded the requirements of his periodical task, and produced a collection of sketches and criticisms with sufficient stamina to sustain a place in literature, without appealing to the taste for caricature and personal gossip, which he might so easily have been tempted to gratify. The work consists mainly of literary and artistic essays, and characterizations of eminent public men, which, though often provoking question and denial, display no little cultivation and thought, and the command of a free and vigorous style. The essays on Forrest, The World's Own, Charlotte Brontë, Edward Everett, Rachel, and George Bancroft, to specify no others, are written in a spirit of fine and just appreciation, which is as uncommon as the happy selection of language in which they are clothed. We might quarrel with the writer for many of his positions in other papers, if we were disposed to find fault, but we must accord him the merit of a high tone of criticism in general, and a more than common power and grace of expression.

THE NEW AND THE OLD; OR, CALIFORNIA AND INDIA IN ROMANTIC ASPECTS. By J. W. PALMER, M. D. 12mo., pp. 433. Rudd & Carleton.

Strange and piquant experiences—a curious blending of the tragic and comic—have supplied the author with rare material for these high-wrought sketches. His roving genius had tempted him to San Francisco, while the delirium produced by the new-found gold was at its hight, and during that wild carnival, or rather frightful witches' sabbath, he plunges into the midst of scenes, which happily have no parallel or counterpart beyond that first preternatural blossoming of California life. His descriptions are evidently drawn with a faithful pencil, and though the coloring may be sometimes too luxuriant, they bear the impress of a reality, of which few features could be hightened by the imagination. After leaving California, the scene changes to India, and a more decided transition can hardly be conceived, than the departure from the demoniac excitements of the new El Dorado to the dreaming fancies of the Orient. The author, however, appears to be equally at home at both points of the compass, and his narrative never flags in interest, never grows cold, but is always up at least to blood-heat, even where it is not highly spiced by pungent condiments.

1. PLAIN AND PLEASANT TALK ABOUT FRUITS, FLOWERS AND FARMING. By HENRY WARD BEECHER. 12mo., pp. 420. Derby & Jackson.
2. NEW STAR PAPERS; OR, VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS. By HENRY WARD BEECHER. 12mo., pp. 403. The Same.

The first of these volumes is made up of a variety of pages written several years since, while the author was editing an agricultural journal in the West. It contains the essence of book-farming in a reduced compass, and is as entertaining as a story book. The second consists of a selection from Mr. Beecher's recent theological papers, which come fresh and glowing from his active and untiring brain. They relate mostly to questions of immediate interest, and form a racy addition to the "Tracts for the Times."

The Battles of the United States, by HENRY B. DAWSON, has reached the seventeenth number, which contains a description of the "Storming of Stony Point," the "Battle of Minisink," and the "Expedition against the Senecas." Mr. Dawson shows no symptoms of relaxation in the performance of his arduous task, but is pursuing it with exemplary zeal and fidelity. The numbers of the serial hitherto issued contain a fund of valuable historical information, set forth in an unpretending manner, and enriched by the addition of the original authorities. (Johnson, Fry & Co.)

The American Stair Builder, by WILLIAM P. ESTERBROOK and JAMES H. MONCKTON, is a practical manual intended for the use of architects, master stair builders, carpenters, and apprentices, containing a great variety of diagrams, with full explanations. The work claims to furnish the attentive student, however inexperienced, with the means of understanding the construction of any kind of stairs or hand-railing that may be required. (Published by the Authors.)

The Lives of the Queens of England, by AGNES STRICKLAND, has been issued in a handsome octavo edition, 7 vols., with elegant steel engravings, by Brown, Taggard & Chase, Boston.